

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 13, and 16-17 have been amended, claims 5-12 and 15 have been canceled, and claims 2-4, 14, and 18-20 remain unchanged. Thus, claims 1-4, 13-14, and 16-20 are pending. No new matter has been added to the amended claims.

Claims 1-20 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of co-pending Application No. 10/378,041. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 13 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sawada et al. (2002-0041455).

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Novotny (6,827,866).

Claims 9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Novotny in view of Chan et al. (6,252,227).

Double Patenting Rejection

Applicant submits that since U.S. Application No. 10/378,041 has not yet matured into a patent, this is a provisional double patenting rejection and should be withdrawn once the other rejections in the present application have been overcome. See MPEP 804(I)(B) and 804(I)(C).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the limitations originally presented in claims 5 and 15, respectively. All dependent claims depend from either claim 1 or 13. Therefore, the pending claims are in a condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner.

Appl. No. 10/756,923
Amdt. dated August 31, 2005
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1763

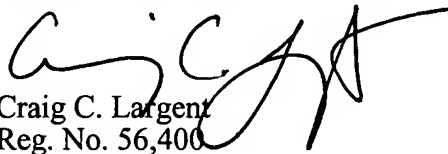
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400 , x5518.

Respectfully submitted,


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